

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
MISSISSIPPI COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR
REMOTE SENSING AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

June 9, 2015

PRESENT

Robert Latham, Jr., Chairman, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency
Michele Blocker (for Craig Orgeron), Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
Michael Bograd, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Michael Cresap (for Melinda McGrath), Mississippi Department of Transportation
Jim Steil, Institutions of Higher Learning/MARIS
Richard Tolbert, Mississippi Association of Professional Surveyors
Lisa Chism, Department of Revenue
Jeff Mullins, Mississippi Tax Assessors/Collectors Association
Dr. Brian Mitchell (for Charlie W. Morgan), Mississippi Forestry Commission

ABSENT

Tony Fleming, Clarke County Board of Supervisors
Un-named Senator, Mississippi State Senate
Shari T. Veazey, Mississippi Municipal League
Scott Delano, Representative, Mississippi House of Representatives
Mike Wright for (Rick Ericksen), Mississippi State Board of Registered Professional Geologists
Derrick Surrence, Mississippi Association of Supervisors
John Helms (for Brent Christensen), Mississippi Development Authority
Matthew Dodd (for Gene McGee), Mayor, City of Ridgeland
Kelly McMullan (for Delbert Hosemann), Mississippi Secretary of State
Chuck Carr, Central Mississippi Planning and Development District

Chairman Robert Latham called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. A quorum of Council members was not present. Chairman Latham advised that we would not be able to conduct any formal business due to this. He introduced Joel Yelverton to give the Council Coordinator's Report.

Council Coordinator's Report - Joel Yelverton advised that due to bad weather the contractor was only able to collect twelve inch imagery for 5 counties. The contractor was unable to collect any imagery for the other 6 of 11 counties in the project. Six inch imagery was ordered for some areas of the 11 counties but unfortunately, there was no Six inch imagery collected in any of the counties. The Mississippi Attorney General's Office approved the carrying over of the interlocal agreements between the 11 counties for the next project year. The problem is that these contracts will carry over into the next term of County Board of Supervisors and the law states that the new term Supervisors can't be bound by past contracts. These contracts aren't automatically voided but the new Supervisors do have the discretion to void these contracts if they so desire. Mr. Yelverton polled the 11 counties and found that each of them felt as if these contracts would not be in

jeopardy with the new term Supervisors. The MS Department of Transportation has also agreed to shift their funding to the next project year as well. Based on the 20 county per year limit they will be able to add 8 counties in Southwest Mississippi to the existing 11. They are hoping to add Quitman County which will allow a completion of the 20 county goal.

GIS Portal/Clearinghouse Update - Billy Rials with MS ITS provided an update on the activities of the Clearinghouse. Mr. Rials gave a quick review of his presentation from the last council meeting held on April 7, 2015. He spoke to the action items from the last council meeting pertaining to the Clearinghouse 2.0. ITS is meeting with other state agencies and are in the process of creating Interagency Agreements and defining technical standards with TUG review. The three questions being posed to the partner agencies are. 1) What data do you want to put in the Clearinghouse? 2) Where do you want to store the data? 3) How do you want it served out to the customer?

Education and Outreach – Dr. Scott Samson with MSU’s GRI provided an update on current education and outreach activities. Dr. Samson spoke about the new GeoProject website. The previous website was designed for dialup and bad DSL. This new website harnesses the power of modern technology. The workshops are still very popular and in demand. There are currently two workshops being offered. They are Introduction QGIS (open source GIS) and Introduction to ArcGIS Online. Three new workshops will be offered beginning in August of this year. The first class will be an Advanced QGIS workshop. The second class will be a workshop on Introduction to ArcGIS Desktop. This will be based on a beginner’s use of the ESRI Desktop software. The final of the three classes will be a Python scripting class. Dr. Samson advised that current NOAA funding will sustain the GeoProject through 2016 and MSU has submitted a proposal for the funding of the Project beyond 2016.

Census Update – Jim Steil with MARIS updated the Council on activities with regards to the Census Partnership. Mr. Steil advised that through joint endeavors with locals and the PDDs they have been able to update some of the boundaries with Census. Mr. Steil advised that it wasn’t so hard to get the boundaries, but it was difficult to get the supporting documents that make these boundaries official and acceptable to Census. Mr. Steil advised that there is a new standard for addressing that is coming out of NENA.

TUG – TUG Chairman Talbot Brooks phoned in and gave an update on the activities of the TUG. He spoke to the importance of point addressing and the national implications. He’s currently attending a National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) and in their meetings the importance of these standards for national point addressing is being realized. He also spoke to the willingness of the TUG to work with MS ITS in insuring that the Clearinghouse 2.0 is technical over-all.

Additional Business – Chairman Latham spoke to the success of the recent State Preparedness Summit held on the MS Gulf Coast in May. He advised there were approximately 600 people in attendance at the Summit. He commented on how important it was for agencies to collaborate

during these events so that they could take advantage of these opportunities to get their message out. Additionally, Mr. Latham advised on the pro-active creating of documents that could be shared with the Legislature regarding GIS sustainability. He recommended highlighting the ways other states were funding their state GIS Programs. Mr. Latham recognized Michele Blocker with MS ITS to talk about the creation of a GIS class of pins. She advised that ITS has been working with other state agencies and will be working in the future with the State Personnel Board to create a class of GIS pins that are closely aligned with the current IT class of pins. Jim Steil with MARIS reminded everyone about the 3rd Annual MS State Geospatial Conference to be held at the USM Gulf Park Campus on October 22th and 23rd.

Meeting Adjourned